

20 July 2021

C/O Wellsway School, Chandag Road  
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1PH  
0117 946 1229  
enquiries@wellswaymat.com  
www.wellswaymat.com  
Chief Executive: Andrea Arlidge

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Step 4 – new government guidelines for schools**

We are writing to you to share the new guidance for schools from the government that will apply as the country enters Step 4 of the roadmap.

As the country moves to Step 4, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September. The priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils.

#### **Tracing close contacts and isolation**

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, schools will no longer need to do contact tracing and close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Self-isolation continues for those who have tested positive for Covid-19.

#### **Asymptomatic testing**

Over the summer, staff and secondary students should continue to test regularly, using a lateral flow device test, if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings.

As students will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school students should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return to school in the autumn term. Settings can stagger the return of students across the first week to manage this. Students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

#### **Operational changes being brought in with Step 4**

The following areas will remain in place in WMAT for the remainder of this school year and the changes will be made at the start of the new school year in September:

- Mixing and 'bubbles'

There will no longer be the requirement for children to be taught in consistent bubbles and kept separate at breaks and lunchtime. As well as giving more flexibility in curriculum delivery it will mean that activities such as assemblies can resume.

- Face coverings

Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The Department for Education recommends that face coverings are worn on dedicated transport to school or college when there are a high number of cases of Covid-19 in the community. We will review the situation in September and will continue to make this a requirement if this is the case.

- Stepping measures up and down

Each school will have outbreak management plans outlining how it would operate if there were an outbreak in the school or local area. This could include a temporary return to measures such as bubbles or face coverings in secondary classrooms.

- Control measures

The measures to help control the spread of infection in schools are being reduced to four:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone – particularly hand washing and safe disposal of tissues
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

### **Attendance and Remote Education**

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it will continue to be a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. The normal procedures and sanctions will be applied. Schools will continue to provide remote learning for pupils who are unable to attend school because they have tested positive, to enable them to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

Over the summer holiday our Trust's Risk Assessment will be reviewed to reflect these new guidelines. It will be available on the Trust website by the start of the new school year at [www.futuralearning.co.uk](http://www.futuralearning.co.uk)

### **Return to school timings**

We have arranged staggered starts to allow students to receive an onsite Lateral Flow Test before they return to the classroom. All students should use the entrance near the sports centre (gate 4) on their first day back, they will be guided into the hall for an assembly led by the Principal.

- **Year 7** students will return to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8:45.**
- **Year 8** students will return to school on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 8:45.**
- **Year 9** students will return to school on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 10:05.**
- **Year 10** students will return to school on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8:45.**
- **Year 11** students will return to school on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September of 10:05.**
- **Year 12** students will return to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45**

- **Year 13** students will return to school on **Tuesday 7th September at 8.45**  
Additional detail will be provided by the P16 team about the induction sessions for P16 students.

### Onsite Asymptomatic testing

All students will receive two Lateral Flow Tests during the first few days in September. The first test will take place before students return to the classroom and the second will happen during lesson time. Testing is voluntary but strongly recommended. Students who do not take a test should return to school at the same time as their year group.

**Important - Parents of new Year 7 students must complete the following consent form:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2Fqv4C93KdzBuguNAKKs8Zts9sDIWhLXoO-EVvof5flaGqQ/viewform>

Please use this grid to establish what time students need to come to school for their first test:

		Thursday 2nd	Friday 3rd	Monday 6th
TESTING ARRIVAL TIMES	08:45	Y12 & Y13	10T11	9AT1
	09:05	Y12 & Y13	10AT1 & 10AT2 & 10EU1	9CA1 & 9CA2 & 9EU1
	10:05	7AT1 & 7AT2	10EU2 & 10CA1 & 10CA2	9EU2 & 9T11 & 9T11
	Break			
	11:25	7CA1 & 7CA2	11AT1 & 11AT2 & 11CA1	8AT1 & 8AT2 & 8CA1
	12:25	7EU1 & 7EU2	11CA2 & 11T11	8CA2 & 8EU1 & 8EU2
	Lunch			
	14:05	7T11 & 7T12	11EU1 & 11EU2	8T11 & 8T12

Students should arrive no earlier than the specified time and enter the school through GATE 3. The testing process will take approximately one hour, and students will return home after their first test.

If the school does not make contact with you during this hour your son/daughter will have received a negative test result. If a student tests positive we will contact you and follow the appropriate procedure.

The government has produced an information leaflet for parents on the new guidance, which can be viewed [here](#). If you have any questions about the new arrangements please email your questions to: [sblovell@sblonline.org.uk](mailto:sblovell@sblonline.org.uk).

May we take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued support as we work together to address these new guidelines.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr D Anderson**  
Principal



**Andrea Arlidge**  
Chief Executive